

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will build a new paradigm for the financing of congressional campaigns. The Grassroots Democracy Act is a package of reforms designed to combat the influence of concentrated money in politics, raise civic engagement, and to amplify the voice of everyday Americans in our nation's electoral process. Through a three-pronged, comprehensive approach, we can ensure Americans' voices are heard over the din of big money that has dominated our politics and our public policy for too long.

First, the legislation provides Americans with a \$50 refundable tax credit/coupon to contribute to their preferred candidates for congressional office. With average Americans newly empowered to participate in campaign giving, candidates will have more incentive to re-engage with everyday voters rather than spending disproportionate amounts of time fundraising from moneyed interests.

Next, the legislation multiplies the impact of grassroots donations (\$100 or less). For candidates who forego PAC money and are willing and able to earn broad-based support from grassroots donors in their district or state, a public match will be available on grassroots donations. Suddenly, the \$50 contribution can become a \$300 contribution—matched at a rate of \$5 to \$1. For those candidates who agree to take only grassroots donations, the \$50 contribution can become a \$550 contribution—matched at a rate of \$10 to \$1. By democratizing the donor base and amplifying the impact of grassroots contributions, participating candidates will be able to run a viable, competitive campaign, while staying connected to the needs of the constituents they represent.

Lastly, the legislation prevents super PACs and other big money organizations—the products of the Citizens United and other recent court rulings—from drowning out the voice of the people. In elections where outside spending significantly outpaces national norms, grassroots supported candidates will have access to a People's Fund—to make sure their voice can still be heard. Once total non-candidate spending reaches a certain decibel level, grassroots supported candidates will have the opportunity to apply for an additional 1:1 match on their grassroots base, providing the immediate, supplemental support necessary to ensure the marketplace of ideas remains competitive.

Capitol Hill is full of well-intentioned people who came to Washington with noble goals and deeply held principles. Most ran for Congress out of a strong desire to serve their community

and the broader American public. The problem is the moment they decide to run for office they become distracted—distracted by the endless need for more money to win the election.

The Grassroots Democracy Act represents a path forward. Together, these reforms provide can begin to combat the influence of concentrated money in politics, raise civic engagement, and amplify the political voice of the American electorate. A new paradigm of financing campaigns will liberate candidates from dependence on special interests and big money, ensuring our public policy is truly fashioned in the interest of the public.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF BARBARA TACHOVSKY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barbara Tachovsky on her retirement as President of Paoli Hospital after 26 years of service to the Hospital and in the field of healthcare.

Under President Tachovsky's leadership, Paoli Hospital earned accreditation as the only Level II Trauma Center in Chester County, which alleviated the need for victims of traumatic injury to be transported further away for emergency treatment and saved countless lives. Additionally, Paoli Hospital was recognized four times as a Top 100 Hospital by Thomson Reuters and as a Best Regional Hospital in five specialties by US News and World Report. During her tenure, Paoli also received the Premier Award for Quality two years in a row, as well as numerous certifications for providing outstanding care and achieving operational efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of exemplary service to her community and a litany of sterling accomplishments too long to record, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Barbara Tachovsky for her invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania and the surrounding region.

STOLEN VALOR ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize yesterday's passage in the House of H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act.

I, unfortunately, was not able to vote on passage of this important bill because of a

commitment back in my district. I joined with New Balance associates at the factory in Norridgewock, Maine to press U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk on the importance of preserving current footwear tariffs, which are threatened by the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a multinational free trade agreement that is currently being negotiated. I truly appreciated Ambassador Kirk's visit and the opportunity to join him and New Balance's highly skilled workers, but I regret that this prevented me from helping to pass H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act.

Had I been able to be present for the vote, I would have voted for the Stolen Valor Act. This Act appropriately creates penalties for individuals who benefit from lying about military decorations or medals. Our service members and veterans make an unparalleled commitment to our nation. They earn military honors through their sacrifices, and I am pleased that the Stolen Valor Act has passed the House to better protect the interests of those who have served our country.

THE POWER OF ONE: ODE TO MS. NATASHA TRETHEWEY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

One can never underestimate the power of the heart and mind,
One can never make changes if One never puts in the time
One can be as powerful as a nation of many if One desires to be
One can make the difference in being a captive or living free
One can set many on the path to harmony in the universe
One becomes the master musician when One helps others to rehearse
One can be the difference in making war and violence cease
One can be essential for a world of harmony and peace
One can show herself friendly and gain friends throughout the world
One can give words to help mold young boys and girls
One can be the voice of many—urging justice for all
One can make the difference in whether we stand or fall
One can change the world by giving a helping hand
One, such as you, Ms. Trethewey with your love for all of man

For Ms. Natasha Trethewey, 19th U.S. Poet Laureate, Penned July 4th, 2012 by Eric Charles®.

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